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THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

VOL. XVI.

EDITED BY HENRY A. SHARP, F.L.A.
(Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon).

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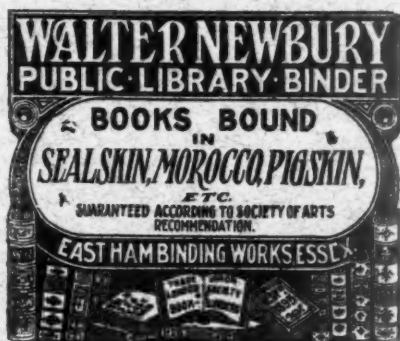
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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The January General Meeting will be held at the Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon, on Wednesday, 11th January, by kind permission of the Libraries' Committee, when the following programme will be carried out:—

3.0 p.m. If a sufficient number signify to Mr. K. A. Ryde, M.C., by 6th January, their intention to be present, Mr. Councillor J. O. Pelton, J.P. (Chairman of the Libraries' Committee), will conduct a party round the old Archbishoppal Palace and the famous Whitgift Hospital.

5.0 p.m. Afternoon tea will be provided at the Central Library by the Croydon Libraries Staff Guild.

6.30 p.m. The juniors will meet in the Junior Library, and a paper outlining the methods in use there will be read by Miss Gwendoline Siggs.

7.30 p.m. The chair will be taken by the Chairman of the Libraries' Committee, and the Borough Accountant of Croydon, J. H. McCall, Esq., F.S.A.A., will read a paper on Library Finance, in which he will deal with its history and development, the position of the librarian in relation to finance, and the organization of the staff in relation to the checking and passing of accounts, the records of fines, fees, etc.

From 5.30 p.m. onwards the whole of the Central Library will be open for inspection, and assistants will be in attendance to explain the various methods in operation.

There will be exhibitions of library forms, vertical files, card cabinets, photographs from the Photographic Survey, etc.

The Junior Library, which has attracted considerable attention, will be open for inspection.

A vacancy on the non-London side of the Council will be filled at this meeting. Nominations to reach the Honorary Secretary not later than Wednesday, 4th January.

The library is easily reached by rail from London Bridge, Charing Cross or Victoria (20 minutes by main line trains), or by tram (change from L.C.C. tram at Norbury) or 'bus.

Through the kind offices of Mr. J. H. Quinn, Chief Librarian, a discussion on "Reconstruction Proposals" will be held at the Chelsea Public Library on Wednesday, 15th February, at 7.30 p.m. The President, Mr. J. D. Stewart, will preside.

EDITORIAL.

The Future of Library Assistants.—It is to be feared that very many library assistants are extremely apathetic towards either their own future, or, what we regard as of much greater importance, of the future of librarianship. The fact that our own Association can only boast a membership of about 700 after more than a quarter of a century's work at least suggests some ground for our fear. We wonder whether the following statement, taken from an editorial in the December *Library World* will do anything to awaken some of them. Writing of the joint discussion on the education of the library assistant, the editor says with reference to the criticism of the School of Librarianship, that "at the bottom of it all is the intense fear of the long-service assistant, without any other qualifications than experience, that the candidate with the initial education plus library school training is bound to take the posts he hoped he might aspire to himself. He is quite right. *Most of the library assistants under twenty-five in libraries have no future whatever there, and would be well-advised to look for other fields of work.*" A cruel statement, many will say, and we agree, believing that it is well nigh impossible for a man who has had, say, ten years' library experience to change his career.

Nevertheless, we cannot but admit the truth of the statement; there is certainly no future whatever in librarianship for those who have not taken the trouble to equip themselves for the inevitably keen competition for the higher appointments in the immediate future, and those who can do so, will do well to follow the advice suggested, should the opportunity present itself.

For all that, we repeat our statement, that it is a cruel thing to tell a man of twenty-five that there is no future for him. Many librarians are to be severely blamed for having allowed youths—and girls—to continue for years in a profession for which they have shown no aptitude. In view of the position indicated by our contemporary's editorial, may we appeal earnestly to every chief librarian to recognise his responsibility and to go very thoroughly and conscientiously into the fitness of beginners in library work to continue in it with any prospect of success.

Surely it is possible to tell within a year at most whether a lad or a girl is likely to make good; at sixteen or seventeen it is no hardship to change one's profession, but at twenty-five, we reiterate, it is cruel.

Mr. E. G. Rees.—The older members of the L.A.A. will be interested to hear of the retirement of Mr. E. G. Rees, of the Westminster Public Libraries, through having reached the age limit appointed by the City Council. In its early days, Mr. Rees was one of the Association's most active workers, and rendered signal service as a member and Chairman of the Committee. During the period of the late war, he again came forward, and as our President for two years, guided us through a very difficult period in our history. On behalf of the Association we offer Mr. Rees our warmest wishes for many years of deserved rest and leisure. In order to express the Association's appreciation of Mr. Rees' work, the Council, at its November meeting, conferred on him the Honorary Fellowship of the Library Assistant's Association, and passed unanimously the following resolution:—

Resolved—

“That this Council congratulates Mr. E. G. Rees on his retirement on superannuation, and wishes him many happy years to enjoy the reward of his 45½ years of honourable service in the Westminster Public Libraries. The Council also elects him an Honorary Fellow of the Association and desires to place on record its appreciation of his keen interest in, and work for, the Association, especially as Chairman of the Council during the years 1900-1904, and as President of the Association, 1915-16, and assures him that the stimulating enthusiasm which he showed for the Library Assistants' Association will always be a source of inspiration to his successors.”

The Value of Libraries.—We are glad to see that the President of the Library Association has written to *The Spectator*, refuting one of the many wild and misleading statements that are just now being made about public libraries. The particular statement refuted in this case is that “for sociology, technical works and poetry, there has been no call at all.” Obviously, the writer of the sentence is grossly ignorant of the

work accomplished by any modern public library, for if there are any forms of literature in ever increasing demand, they are works on sociology and technology, while it is quite common knowledge that poetical and dramatic works have never been more read than during the last year or two.

We notice, too, that the North Central Branch of the Library Association has been exercised as to the prominence given in the recent "Report on the Teaching of English" to certain "inadequate and misleading references to public libraries." After discussion, the following resolution was carried:—

"That this meeting, while appreciating the valuable and interesting report of the Departmental Committee on the teaching of English in England, regrets the inadequate and misleading references to public libraries. Further, it is of opinion that a representative member of the library profession should have been appointed on the Commission, and that equally with the many educational interests represented by the 102 witnesses called by the committee, representatives of public libraries should have been included, especially in view of the work done by the Library Association in recent years by means of papers and conferences to create a public interest in the matter of the reading of children and its bearing on the educational system of the country." We heartily concur with the resolution.

The most astonishing article on libraries that we have seen for a long time appeared from the pen of Mr. L. Cope Cornford, in *The Morning Post* of 2nd December last. Our space is too valuable to permit of lengthy quotations, but the following are samples of the writer's views. Speaking of Andrew Carnegie, he says that "when the American millionaire of Sainted memory insisted upon studding England with Free Libraries, he was playing at Providence, which is a dangerous game. Someone is sure to be hurt; that someone is usually the person whom it is intended to benefit; and who, in this particular case, is the reader of books." Mr. Cornford's idea of a public library—not *free* as he would have us think—is a place of "arid solitudes," with "tiers of dusty volumes, bleak reading-room, and patent indicator."

It is true that he graciously agrees that there *must* be libraries, but apparently not for the masses. In fact, he says "of course there must be libraries; there must be national collections, and libraries for students, for which students prefer to pay. *And there the library should end.*" [The italics are ours.]

We wonder what public library readers think of Mr. Cornford's appellation of "Free Library parasites"? As we have already devoted more space than we intended to Mr. Cornford's humour, we will conclude as he concludes, "A public library is a mausoleum!"

We suppose that there are still in existence public libraries that create such impressions as Mr. Cornford seems to have received, but there are others, and if he will allow us, we shall be happy to furnish him with an itinerary that may alter his views considerably.

In the meantime, if the article is to be read seriously, we contend that Mr. Cornford owes an apology to the users of public libraries and to those who are engaged in their administration.

The New Year.—We wish all our readers a very Happy New Year indeed, and hope that it may see further progress in the library movement and a corresponding raising of the status of librarianship, signs of which have not been wanting during the past year or two.

The Annual Meeting.—Although time is yet young we reprint below particulars of the three-day Annual Meeting which it is proposed to hold in June, in the hope that members will indicate to the Honorary Secretary their intention of being present so that arrangements may be proceeded with. This refers particularly to provincial members desiring hospitality. In addition, the Honorary Secretary will be glad to hear from London members who are able to offer hospitality on this occasion. Briefly, the proposal is to extend the Annual meeting to a three days' affair, including visits to notable libraries. Branch secretaries are requested to send suggestions, or an expression of views, to Mr. Gurner P. Jones, B.A., Public Library, Mile End, E.1, as soon as possible, in order that fullest consideration may be given. A generous response is hoped for as the Council is desirous of making the occasion a great social as well as educational success. Provisional dates: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 19th, 20th and 21st.

Our Representative.—Members will be interested to know that the president, Mr. J. D. Stewart, has been co-opted on to the Education Committee of the Library Association, in order that our Association may be officially represented on that important committee.

"The Library Assistant."—Commencing with the first issue of the new volume we have been able to revert to our

pre-war distinctive cover and to give readers four additional pages of reading matter. As a consequence, we hope that it will be possible to keep readers in touch with the library movement as a whole, especially in so far as it affects the welfare of library workers. The continuance of a journal of the present or of even a larger size, depends very largely upon the measure of support that it receives from those who are interested. May we therefore point out that *The Library Assistant* is the cheapest British professional periodical, that it is obtainable by non-members for eight shillings per annum, post free, and by library assistants for eight shillings, or for four shillings only in the case of assistants of 18 and under. The Council will be glad if readers will make the Journal known as widely as possible in order that its circulation may be enlarged and the Association strengthened. The Editor will be glad to receive, with a view to publication, notes likely to be of general interest to other readers.

Mr. E. A. Savage.—We offer our warmest congratulations to Mr. Ernest A. Savage, on the occasion of his appointment to the important librarianship of the City of Edinburgh. Seldom, if ever, has promotion been so thoroughly deserved, and the appointment will give complete satisfaction to everyone in the profession, even including the disappointed selected candidates, any one of whom would have filled the position with credit. Mr. Savage is a most progressive librarian and a man of original ideas and boundless energy; he has lately completely reorganized the Coventry libraries on the most modern lines, making them equally valuable to the general reader and to the large number of technical workers in that city. As Chairman of the Education Committee of the Library Association he is keenly interested in everything pertaining to the education of library assistants and the ultimate raising of the status of librarianship. We began this note by congratulating Mr. Savage; we conclude it by congratulating Scotland. With Mr. Pitt at Glasgow and Mr. Savage at Edinburgh, a tremendous stimulus should be given to Scottish librarianship, the results of which should be felt by every library worker in that part of the Kingdom.

To Branch Secretaries.—We are happy to inform Branch Secretaries that in consequence of the enlargement of *The Library Assistant*, the Council has decided to set aside at least one page in every issue for the use of each Branch, for the purpose of announcing meetings, recording proceedings, and

for notes likely to be of peculiar interest to readers within the area served by the Branch. Material should reach the Honorary Editor not later than the 15th of the month to ensure inclusion in the following issue.

Next Council Meeting.—The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, 18th January, at 7.0 p.m., at the National Library for the Blind.

Higher Educational Requirements.—We understand that the Derby Libraries Committee are instituting a qualifying examination of matriculation standard for all future assistants who may be appointed. The present members of the staff will be required to pass an examination of a slightly lower standard during this year, after which the examination of matriculation standard will be substituted.

Warships' Libraries.—We are interested to see that the Admiralty is recognising the importance of properly-equipped reference and circulating libraries on board ships, and particularly note that the fact is emphasised that to ensure the successful working of the scheme it must "be controlled by some central authority, who will see that they are circulated to the best advantage, that they are kept intact, and none of them removed by ships leaving the squadron, and that replacements are made when required." May we make the practical suggestion, even in these days of economy, that if the authorities desire the scheme to be successful they must appoint a trained librarian to administer the scheme? Without this, the scheme must fail.

Richmond.—At the December meeting of the Richmond Library Committee, the Chairman extended a cordial welcome to the new Librarian, Mr. A. C. Piper; it was decided to offer Mr. Crockford an honorarium of £100 for his services in the interval between Mr. Barkas' death and the appointment of the new librarian. Before leaving Winchester, Mr. Piper was the recipient at a public meeting of a wallet containing a cheque, and a pipe, presented by his colleagues at Winchester and by the public, as a token of appreciation of his work there during the past seven years.

The attention of members is invited to the following competition :—

Mr. M. Jackson Wrigley, F.L.A., Librarian of the Liverpool Library, Lyceum, offers two prizes of 10s. 6d. each for the best two essays on "The Film: Its Uses as an Educative and Publicity Agent."

The following are the conditions :—

- (1) The competition is open to all members and associates in the North-Western Branch, both the Liverpool and District Division and the Bolton and District Division.
- (2) There is no limit to the number of words.
- (3) Originality, method of treatment, and literary style will be regarded as deciding factors.
- (4) Essays should bear an assumed name and be accompanied by a statement (in a separate envelope) to the effect that the work is the competitor's own unaided effort. This statement should bear both the writer's real, and assumed, name.
- (5) Essays must reach Mr. Wrigley by January 31st, 1922, in envelopes endorsed in the top left-hand corner, "Competition."

It is to be hoped that a large number of assistants will compete, as the subject is certainly very attractive. Members will recollect that Mr. Wrigley recently published through Messrs. Grafton & Co. a book entitled "The Film: Its Use in Popular Education." (Coptic Series, 6s.). Copies of this interesting work are in the Reference Library, Liverpool, the Lending Libraries' Depot, Liverpool, and no doubt also in many other libraries in the area.

SIR MICHAEL SADLER AND STEPHEN LEACOCK.

A Meeting of the Branch was held on Wednesday, November 30th, at the University, Leeds, by kind permission of the University Authorities. The members were received in the History Library by Professor A. J. Grant and Mr. R. Ofor, B.A. (University Librarian), and having inspected the General and Special Libraries, a visit was paid to the Department of Leather Industries. Here, Professor D. McCandlish, M.Sc., gave a short lecture on the history of this Department, which is unique in the universities of the United Kingdom, and then conducted the party round the Department, where they witnessed demonstrations in methods of chemical and microscopical analysis, practical leather manufacture, including coloured leathers, tanning, leather dyeing, etc.

Later, the party were the guests of the University Authorities in the Refectory. Here they were accorded a very hearty welcome by Sir Michael E. Sadler (Vice-Chancellor).

Sir Michael Sadler observed that the public libraries of Yorkshire were giving indispensable aid to the universities of the country, and those who knew how strained was the accommodation of the Leeds University Library were increasingly grateful to the principal librarians and their colleagues for the courtesy and willing assistance which were given to both junior and

senior students in the use of their public collections. "We are really fellow-workers," declared Sir Michael. "Your duties lie in the sphere of higher education. You are not merely custodians of books and not merely administrators. You are more and more instructive helpers in our studies, and I am sure we ought to look forward with increasing confidence to the future of the librarian's calling in this country."

It seemed to him, continued Sir Michael, that they all had at this time a special weight of responsibility. They were living in an age of accurate and untiring specialism and also of broad-minded and vivid generalisation. They had to be prepared to help both the specialist and the student who was feeling his way to a synthesis between these cognate studies, which, though separate in a strict classification, were really akin in spirit and subject matter. This doubled the weight of their duties, and in order to discharge those duties they needed not only goodwill and industry, not only a sound preparation in education and administration, but they also needed an unremitting perseverance in self-culture; and this task, which was a heavy one often at the end of a busy day, brought as its own reward an enlarged view, a keener interest, and a sense of growing mastery which would make life happier and more full.

The University Council, with the help of the Senate, was endeavouring to place at the service of all adult students in Leeds and within range of the city further opportunities for this intellectual stimulus and refreshment. The members of the Library Assistants' Association would now recognise what a hive of industry the University was, where in forty departments more than 200 full-time teachers were doing all within their power to bring within the reach of all students that access to true learning and that ever-deepening sense of obligation to the community which together made up modern and living culture.

The President of the Branch (Mr. J. A. Butterfield) acknowledged the welcome in felicitous terms. The Vice-Chancellor (Sir M. E. Sadler) then extended to the members a cordial invitation to a private lecture by Mr. Stephen Leacock (Professor at McGill University, Montreal).

"I am here," Mr. Leacock began, "as a political economist, and I am pleased to see so many bright faces before me. That is the accepted form of opening for students, but I hasten to add that your faces may not be so bright when I have finished with you. I propose to explain in a few introductory remarks the whole of what I am going to say, otherwise people at the close might ask, 'What was he talking about?'—and some one would be sure to reply, 'He didn't say.' Well, then, the burden of what I wish to say is this, that the principle of equality is very greatly overdone in politics, education, and economics. We need to get away from the everlasting equality and uniformity, and get back more to diversity and to individual effort." He was not there, he went on, to cast reflections on democratic government. Democratic government was part of the necessary pathway to progress, but if we thought in merely passing the portal to it that we had entered the promised land, and had accomplished everything, we should make a great mistake. Democracy was only a form, not necessarily good or bad, but dependent on public spirit, patriotism, the individual merit and the individual worth of the people who made it up. We had run far too much, Mr. Leacock continued, to equality in education. We were beginning to forget that, after all, people were not equal. Education should be directed to bringing out individual talents and individual equipment. Most teachers had to aim at bringing their classes all to one level of efficiency; they had to wait till the fools hopped over the fences which the wise scholars had long ago negotiated. A single person of high endowment was worth more than a hundred of the other sort. There was far too much living in the past. There was that poor dead thing the

University curriculum. A catalogue of the achievements of dead people we called the history of literature. "My advice to you," he added, "is judge for yourselves. If you think my books are greater than Shakespeare's, say so. Don't worry; the fault is yours, not Shakespeare's; there will be no trouble from him." We were becoming victims of equality. Providence, in the shape of the board school, looked after the child as a child, later on got him a job, and failing a job gave him a dole—and then when he died somebody else buried him. The old idea that all a man needed was first the chance to make good for himself, we were in danger of losing altogether, and it was one of the best things we ever had. He did not believe we could get back our British trade and our true British Commonwealth until we had proper recognition of the individual. He did not, of course, believe in trampling down the helpless or anything of that sort, but the other extreme was just as dangerous. Individual effort and individual reward—the effort made for the reward, not for humanity—that was a good enough way to run society. We had swung round very sharply against the profiteer in recent years—he whom we used to call a captain of industry. Scorn was in everybody's mouth about him, "there he lay, and none so low." "In dress, in manners, and everything else we are getting altogether standardised." He declared, "we are all getting clipped to a pattern. In New York there comes a day in June when they all break out into straw hats, and another day in September when they all disappear. Lost to us is that valuable eccentric person who will wear a straw hat in winter, but I'm glad to say he still exists in London."

Errata.—We regret that in our report on "The Education of the Library Assistant," last month, we referred to Mr. C. R. Sanderson, the lecturer in library routine at the School of Librarianship, as Mr. Cobden Sanderson. We apologise for the error.

Benevolent Fund.—The Council record with deep appreciation the receipt of the following donations to the Benevolent Fund (Farrow's Deficit):—

Mr. E. G. Rees, 10s. 6d.; Miss Enid Dawson, 2s.

Appointment Wanted.—A woman member of the L.A.A., who has had a very wide experience in public, university, government, and international library work, desires an appointment. The Honorary Secretary will be happy to forward further details of the candidate's qualifications, etc., upon application.

THE LIBRARY AND THE CINEMA.

By kind permission of the Libraries Committee, the December General Meeting was held at the Fulham Central Library on Wednesday, 14th December. Prior to the meeting, those present were afforded an opportunity of examining the various departments of this progressive and well-equipped modern library, and refreshments were kindly provided by the members of the Fulham Libraries Staff Guild. At the business meeting, the chair was occupied by the Chairman of the Libraries Committee, Councillor Major Clark, who extended to the Association a cordial welcome

to Fulham and expressed his pleasure at having the opportunity of hearing such an important subject discussed as was down on the programme for the evening. He then called on Mr. Herbert Banks, manager of the Dean Cinema Company, to address the meeting on "The Library and Cinema Photography." Mr. Banks regretted that owing to the L.C.C. regulations, it was not possible to exhibit a series of films suitable for use in public libraries as had been proposed originally.

He then proceeded to speak of the tremendous strides made by the art of cinematography since its introduction in 1896. He regarded it as a subject of the greatest possible interest to librarians who had it in their power to mould the characters of the present and coming generations, and also to influence those who had in hand the production of cinema films.

He urged librarians to use their influence with the managers of the local cinemas with a view to securing the best choice of films. Many good novels were filmed nowadays, and the manager should be induced to exhibit slides announcing that the work pictured could be borrowed from the local public library. This idea applied with even greater force to many of the beautiful travel films produced from time to time, and to even more beautiful natural history pictures.

Many of these possessed distinct educational value, which would be greatly enhanced if linked up with the books in the library, by means of attractively compiled lists projected on the screen. There was a prevailing impression in some quarters that the cinema existed only for amusement, but what was amusement to one was something quite different to another. Even some cinema managers needed educating to the view that the cinema had a yet more important function to fulfil than that of merely amusing.

Another significant fact was that the cinema was now entering the homes of the people as the gramophone had done, and the educational value of the art in this connection should not be overlooked.

At present the price of a good educational machine suitable for use in a public library was about £80, but it was hoped in the very near future to turn out a satisfactory one for about £30. When such a machine was produced, he was sure that the cinema would come into its own in the library, for there was scarcely a subject that it would not be possible to illustrate. Moreover, if a number of libraries in the London or any other defined area would work in collaboration, the cost of hiring the films on what was known as the exchange system would not be prohibitive.

At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Banks very kindly replied to a number of questions, mostly suggested by the present stringent regulations imposed by the London County Council.

The meeting concluded with the usual vote of thanks.

Earlier in the evening, the juniors held an enthusiastic meeting at which Mr. C. Jackson, of Fulham, spoke on "The Education of the Junior Library Assistant."

PROCEEDINGS.

By kind permission of the Principal, Miss M. J. Tuke, M.A., the November General Meeting was held at Bedford College on Wednesday, November 9th. Prior to the meeting, those present enjoyed the privilege of examining some of the College rooms under the able guidance of the librarian, Miss J. A. Paterson, L.L.A., especially the beautiful Wernher Reading Room and the Henry Tate library, where Miss Paterson explained briefly the methods of administration in operation, and displayed some of the library's choicest treasures.

At the subsequent meeting, the Chair was occupied by the Principal, who extended a cordial welcome to the Association. Miss Paterson read an interesting and informative paper on "The Growth of a University Library." The paper proved a pleasant change from the more practical and modern aspects of librarianship with which most of us are engrossed, too often to the exclusion of any consideration of our great and noble heritage. The best thanks of the meeting were tendered to Miss Paterson for her guidance through the library and for her paper, and to Miss Tuke for permitting us to visit Bedford College and for presiding at the meeting.

Prior to the ordinary meeting, the Juniors held a discussion on the School of Librarianship, which was opened by Mr. R. Wright, of Wandswoth. Mr. Wright pointed out that the establishment of the school might have very serious consequences for assistants already engaged in the library service who might not have the opportunity of availing themselves of the facilities now offered for instruction in librarianship, either through being too far removed from the College or through inability to pay the necessary fees. In spite of the objections which might be urged against the School, it could not be denied that a better type of assistant would enter the service than had been the case in the past as a rule; better salaries would consequently be paid and the library movement would be raised in the public estimation

NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH: LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT DIVISION.

A meeting of over forty members of the Division was held on Friday, November 11th, at the Liverpool Library, Lyceum, by kind invitation of the committee. Mr. D. J. Feeny, President of the Library, in welcoming the members, briefly indicated the many historical associations of the institution, and referred to the brotherhood of books by which all library workers were united.

Mr. J. T. Evans (Reference Library, Liverpool), in the course of a very sincere (though perhaps somewhat satirical) paper on "Publicity methods as applied to public libraries," spoke of the relations between librarianship and salesmanship, and expressed the opinion that the principles underlying modern commercial advertising campaigns would also tend to make public libraries more popular. He made special reference to the splendid possibilities offered for "indoor" publicity by the more intelligent use of notice boards, topical exhibitions, lectures, &c.

Mr. R. Cochran (Librarian, Walton and Fazakerley Branch Library) read an interesting paper on the subject of "Children's Story Hours," which, he said, aimed at developing in the youthful mind a love of reading. The Story Hour was a legitimate part of library work, for it introduced

children to the world's greatest books and created a habit of good and systematic reading. There was also a higher aspect worth considering. The Story Hour filled children's minds with ennobling thoughts, which, in the course of time, would be expressed in similar actions.

Mr. W. J. Harris (a member of the Liverpool Library, Lyceum) warmly thanked the readers of the papers, and spoke in a genial way of his great admiration for the library profession.

An interesting discussion followed in which the following took part:—Mr. A. H. Gillgrass (Public Library, Warrington), Mr. M. Jackson Wrigley (Librarian, Liverpool Library, Lyceum), Mr. W. J. Randall (Law Library, Liverpool), Mr. E. C. Wickens (Reference Library, Liverpool).

Prior to the meeting, the Council discussed the future policy of the Division and unanimously decided to institute a vigorous campaign for new members.

Eighty-nine members and friends of the Division attended an association Whist Drive at Roberts' Café, Bold Street, on Friday, December 9th, and judging by the number of enquiries as to "when is the next," there can be no doubt that the evening was a great success.

Undoubtedly the artistic rooms and the excellence of the catering contributed largely to the success; but what meant much more was the prevailing spirit of good fellowship—a quality which should characterize every professional gathering.

A feature of the evening was the thirty prizes—"a surprise prize being awarded for nearly every hand, in addition to the principal awards.

Mr. E. C. Wickens genially directed the ceremonies.

SOUTH COAST BRANCH.

The quarterly meeting of this Branch was held at the Carnegie Branch Library, Fratton Road, Portsmouth, on Wednesday, October 26th, when Mr. J. Hutt, M.A., presided over a gathering of nineteen members and friends.

The President having welcomed the members, called upon Miss Page (Portsmouth) to read her paper entitled "The Bible in English Literature." This proved to be one of the best literary efforts ever read before the Branch, and during the discussion which followed, each speaker heartily congratulated Miss Page upon her admirable paper.

Mr. A. Cecil Piper, City Librarian, Winchester, who was present, received the congratulations of the meeting upon having secured the appointment of Chief Librarian of Richmond.

Two resolutions were also carried:—

1. "That the South Coast Branch of the Library Assistants' Association desires to call the attention of the Council to a note on 'The Registration of Librarians' in the October number of the 'Library Association Record,' and suggests that in view of the fact that the present Register was drawn up as a result of a joint meeting of the Library Association and the Library Assistants' Association, the Council should approach the Library Association on the question of securing legal recognition of a Register of Librarians with the view of securing for the Library Assistants' Association opportunities for submitting its views and suggestions on any proposed scheme for establishing a 'legal' Register."

2. "To inform the Council of the Library Assistants' Association that in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable to protest against the recent advertisement for a librarian at Winchester, on the ground of the inequality of salary offered to a woman as compared with that offered to a man."

The President having offered the sum of one guinea to the Branch, it has been decided to offer two prizes of half a guinea each, one for seniors and one for juniors, for the two best essays on "Library Work for Children, criticisms and suggestions."

The next meeting of the Branch will be held at the Worthing Public Library in January next and two prizes of 10/- and 5/- respectively will be given from the Branch funds for the two best essays read at that meeting. Full particulars of these competitions will be sent to each Library in the South Coast Branch area.

Votes of thanks to the Chairman and Committee of the Portsmouth Public Libraries, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Hutt (who provided tea), to Miss Page and the Portsmouth staff concluded a very successful meeting.

ERNEST MALE,
Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

A Meeting of the Branch was held in Morley on Wednesday, October 5th, by kind permission of the Chief Librarian, Mr. E. J. Gentry, F.L.A. Members assembled at the Central Library at 3 p.m., and the Chief Librarian kindly conducted them round the Library. At 3.30, a short ramble was undertaken to local parks and places of historical interest. Returning to the Central Library, tea was served at five o'clock.

A General Meeting was held at 7 o'clock, when Mr. G. W. Strother (Leeds) opened a discussion on "The Provision of Reference Libraries by small towns." Mr. Strother said that his main idea in opening this discussion was to place before the members a few scattered thoughts which had occurred to him when visiting other libraries, in the hope that an interchange of ideas, and discussion of the same, might lead to conclusions which would be useful and beneficial. "I am not aware," said Mr. Strother, "that this particular aspect has ever been discussed; and the tilling of virgin soil presents greater difficulties than were first realised." It had frequently been borne in upon him that it had come to be recognised as the only right and proper course to take, when the Public Libraries Acts are adopted, is to look at the matter from the standpoint of the already established large library systems, where, while they have not unlimited resources, yet have available such an income as will allow for the upkeep of their many activities. Surely, in the case of a small town, where the possible income can only be comparatively small for a great number of years, despite the fact that there is now no limit to the Library Rate, this is a wrong view to take; and he ventured to suggest that it would be much better to consider the capacity and power to provide that which is most urgently needed, than to start with the preconceived idea that because, generally speaking, libraries already established consist of such and such departments, every public library must have these departments, or be looked upon as an imperfect institution. The attempt to provide such departments as Reference Library, Lending Library, Newsroom, and in some cases Commercial Library, simply because it is

usually done, means attempting something which one has often felt was not justifiable. Mr. Strother suggested that in small towns it would be a distinct advantage to leave the provision of Reference Libraries to the larger library systems, and concentrate on an efficient Lending Library. A well selected and efficient Lending Library is much better than a less efficient Lending Library and an altogether unsatisfactory Reference Library.

It may be urged that a Reference Library is a most important and necessary factor in the Library Service; and while he was in agreement with that view to some extent, it is equally true to state that if it cannot be a well equipped and thoroughly satisfactory department it were better not to make any pretence of possessing such a department. Every time it failed to supply in any way the requirements of the people using it, to that extent did it impair the reputation of the Library as a whole. Another aspect of the case is that when such a department exists books which should by all means be available for home reading are placed in the Reference Library, and can only be consulted at the Library. The most important factor to be taken into consideration in looking at the question from this particular point of view, is that the cost of books for a Reference Library, to make it of sufficient utility to justify its existence, is prohibitive for any library with a comparatively small income, and should not be attempted. It was deplorable to go into some small libraries—using the term 'small' in no derogatory sense—because many of them are excellently conducted and managed, and are a credit to themselves, and everyone connected with them—and to find a room set apart for what is known as a Reference Library, to find one solitary occupant, and sometimes not even one, and the books on the shelves not providing anything approaching a sufficient supply of literature to permit of a reasonable, yet comprehensive, research.

MR. ARTHUR FINNEY, M.L.A., deputy librarian, York, has been installed Worshipful Master of the Eboracum Lodge, No. 1611, York.

NEW MEMBERS.

MEMBERS: Gertrude M. Hobbiss (Southend); Francis S. Engalls (Hornsey); Harry Elliott (Chelsea); W. C. Gusterman (Willesden). N.W. BRANCH: Misses W. Davies and F. Waywell; Messrs. J. W. Green and F. J. Waters (Liverpool); J. Leather (Southport); Miss O. N. Rochwell (Liverpool). SOUTH COAST BRANCH: Douglas Gardiner (Eastbourne); and Miss E. Simpson (Worthing).

MEMBERS: Francis Bogdin (Stepney); F. J. Cooper (St. Pancras); S. R. Dickeson (Stepney).

ASSOCIATES: Mary McMurray, Kathleen Taylor (Southend); Reginald Hayes (Ealing); Miss M. Handsworth (St. Albans); Clarence Preston (Sion College). N.E. BRANCH: G. F. Leighton, Miss G. Davison, Miss K. Black, Miss O. Robson (Sunderland). N.W. BRANCH: Misses A. Dean and A. M. Roberts (Liverpool).

ASSOCIATES: Lena Carlish and Rose M. Sautler (Stepney).

New members of the General Association are requested to forward their subscriptions as soon as possible to the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. J. F. Hogg, Central Library, Lavender Hill, S.W.11. Branch members will please remit to their local treasurers. SUBSCRIPTIONS: Fellows, 12s.; Members, 8s. (i.e., all over 18); Associates, 4s. (i.e., all of 18 and over).

APPOINTMENTS.

*F. J. BOARDMAN, senior assistant, Cardiff, to be deputy librarian, Wallasey. Inclusive salary, £300.

The other selected candidates were: *Harry Cross (Croydon), *R. Halliday (Torquay).

E. A. SAVAGE, chief librarian, Coventry, to be principal librarian and clerk, Edinburgh. Inclusive salary, £700.

The other selected candidates were: Messrs. Beveridge (Edinburgh), Leighton (Greenock), W. C. Berwick Sayers (Croydon), and Geo. A. Stephen (Norwich).

* Member, L.A.A.

EXAMINATION NOTICES.

The Library Association will hold Examinations in all sections of the Examination Syllabus during 1922, as follows:—

Sectional Examinations: May 15—20; December 11—16.

Preliminary Test: May 17; December 13.

Elementary Course: May 22; December 18.

The latest dates for entry are: For the May Examinations, February 14; for the December Examinations, September 14.

The Special Literary History Period for 1922 is 1900-1921.

Students are reminded that copies of the papers set at previous examinations are obtainable on application at Stapley House at 6d. per set of two papers.



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